

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application or in previous responses to office actions:

1. (previously presented) A nasal cannula assembly designed for contact with the nasolabial area of a patient's nose and comprising:

a hollow tubular member having an opening at each end, said tubular member having a central portion of sufficient length to span the width of an average patient's nostrils and end portions extending from each end of said central portion, said central portion having a pair of spaced, hollow extensions integral with and projecting therefrom said hollow extensions terminating in gas directing orifices and which hollow portion of said extensions communicate with said hollow tubular member,

said central portion lying in a first plane with longitudinal axes symmetrical about a midpoint and forming an angle in said first plane less than 160 degrees,

each said hollow extension having a longitudinal axis projecting from said central portion at an acute angle from said first plane, said gas directing orifices of said hollow extensions having a longitudinal axis lying in a second plane essentially parallel to and displaced from said first plane,

said end portions of said central portion lying in essentially the first plane with longitudinal axis of said end portion essentially collinear with longitudinal axis of corresponding symmetrical half of said central portion.

2. (previously presented) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said hollow extensions terminate in said gas directing orifices where thickness of material forming rim of said orifices is less than .006 inches.
3. (previously presented) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the longitudinal axis of each said gas directing orifice is angled in said second plane toward second said gas directing orifice such that the longitudinal axes of each said gas directing orifice intersect at an acute angle.

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20. (previously presented) The nasal cannula assembly of claim 1 further comprising at least one support tube having a 10% tensile modulus less than 200 psi.

21. (previously presented) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein said support tubes have a hardness between 40 and 75 Shore A.

22. (previously presented) A nasal cannula as recited in claim 20 wherein said support tubes have a compression set less than 45% at 23 degrees C per ASTM D-395.

23. (previously presented) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein said support tubes have a brittle temperature less than -40 degrees C per ASTM D-746.

24. (previously presented) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein said support tubes are manufactured from a polyvinyl chloride compound comprising at least a portion of polyvinyl chloride resin having an average molecular weight of at least about 100,000.

25. (new) A nasal cannula designed for contact with the nasalalabial area of a patient's nose and comprising:

a hollow tubular member having an opening at each end, said tubular member having a central portion of sufficient length to span the width of an average patient's nostrils and end portions extending from each end of said central portion,

said central portion having a pair of spaced hollow extensions integral with and projecting therefrom, said hollow extensions terminating in gas-directing orifices and which hollow portion of said extensions communicate with said hollow tubular member,

said central portion lying in a first plane with longitudinal axes symmetrical about a midpoint, wherein said midpoint is opposite the said hollow extensions and noncollinear with the center points of the open ends of said hollow tubular member,

each said hollow extension having a longitudinal axis projecting from said central portion at an acute angle from said first plane, said gas-directing orifices of said hollow extensions having longitudinal axes lying in a second plane parallel to and displaced from said first plane,

shape of said hollow tubular member and length of said end portions selected to cause the center-of-gravity of said cannula to lie below said center points of the open ends of said hollow tubular member.

26. (new) A nasal cannula as recited in claim 25, wherein shape of said central portion of said hollow tubular member forms a “V” and said end portions of said hollow tubular member lie in said first plane with longitudinal axis of said end portion collinear with longitudinal axis of corresponding symmetrical half of said central portion.

27. (new) A nasal cannula as recited in claim 25, wherein shape of said central portion of said hollow tubular member forms a “V” and said end portions of said hollow tubular member lie in said first plane with longitudinal axis of first said end portion collinear with longitudinal axis of second said end portion.

28. (new) A nasal cannula as recited in claim 25, wherein said shape of said hollow tubular member is a circular arc lying within said first plane.

29. (new) A nasal cannula as recited in claim 25, wherein said hollow extensions terminate in said gas-directing orifices where thickness of material forming rim of said orifice is less than .006 inches.

30. (new) A nasal cannula as recited in claim 25, wherein the longitudinal axis of each said gas-directing orifice is angled in said second plane toward second said gas-directing orifice such that the longitudinal axes of said gas-directing orifices intersect at an acute angle.

31. (new) A nasal cannula assembly designed for contact with the nasalabial area of a patient's nose comprising:

a nasal cannula as recited in claim 26, 27, or 28,

at least one support tube having a 10% tensile strength modulus less than 200psi,

a main supply tube.

32. (new) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 31 wherein said support tubes have a hardness between 40 and 75 Shore A.

33. (new) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 31 wherein said support tubes have a compression set less than 45% at 23 degrees C per ASTM D-395.
34. (new) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 31 wherein said support tubes have a brittle temperature less than -40 degrees C per ASTM D-746.
35. (new) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 31 wherein said support tubes are manufactured from a polyvinyl chloride compound comprising at least a portion of polyvinyl chloride resin having an average molecular weight of at least 100,000.
36. (new) A nasal cannula assembly designed for contact with the nasalabial area of a patient's nose comprising:
- a nasal cannula as recited in claim 26, 27, or 28,
- at least one support tube,
- a main supply tube having 10% tensile modulus less than 200psi.
37. (new) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 36 wherein said supply tube has a hardness between 40 and 75 Shore A.
38. (new) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 36 wherein said supply tube has a compression set less than 45% at 23 degrees C per ASTM D-395.
39. (new) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 36 wherein said supply tube has a brittle temperature less than -40 degrees C per ASTM D-746.
40. (new) A nasal cannula assembly as recited in claim 36 wherein said supply tube is manufactured from a polyvinyl chloride compound comprising at least a portion of polyvinyl chloride resin having an average molecular weight of at least 100,000.